

**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON  
APPROPRIATIONS**

Wednesday, October 24, 2007      10:00 a.m.      Room 352, State Capitol

The House Standing Committee on Appropriations was called to order by the Chairman, Representative George Cushingberry, Jr.

An Invocation was offered by the Chairman.

Members present: Representatives Cushingberry, Gillard, Bauer, Bennett, Byrnes, Espinoza, Gonzales, Hammel, Hood, Jackson, Lahti, LeBlanc, McDowell, Sak, Alma Smith, Spade, Vagnozzi, Acciavatti, Caswell, Shaffer, Brandenburg, Amos, Booher, Caul, Hansen, Proos, Moss, Nofs and Walker.

Members absent/excused: Representative Cheeks.

Representative Sak moved to approve the minutes of the meetings held on August 22, August 29, and September 5, 2007. Representative Vagnozzi supported the motion. Without objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

Chairman Cushingberry made opening remarks to the committee regarding progress on the budget.

Chairman Cushingberry recognized former senator and employee of the Ambassador Bridge, Senator Eddie Robinson to address the committee. He spoke on the history and necessity of the state having a second span.

Chairman Cushingberry also recognized each subcommittee chairperson to address each area with a brief update of the budget as follows:

Labor and Economic Development - Rep. Hammel

State Police - Rep. LeBlanc

Agriculture - Rep. Espinoza

Military and Veterans Affairs- Rep. LeBlanc

Natural Resources- Rep. Lahti

History, Arts and Libraries - Rep. Vagnozzi

Environmental Quality - Rep. Bennett

Community Colleges - Rep. Bauer

Corrections - Rep. Alma Smith

Transportation - Rep. Gonzales

Higher Education - Rep. Byrnes

School Aid and Education – Chairman Cushingberry (for Rep. Gillard)

Judiciary – Chairman Cushingberry (for Rep. Gillard)  
Human Services - Rep. Spade  
Community Health - Rep. McDowell  
General Government - Chairman Cushingberry (for Rep. Cheeks)  
Capital Outlay - Rep. Hood

Chairman Cushingberry announced that he would be having the next meeting of the Appropriations committee on Wednesday, December 12, 2007 to discuss the supplemental.

Chairman Cushingberry moved to excuse absent members. Without objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent.

There being no further business before the committee and seeing no objection the committee adjourned the time being 11:55 a.m.

**Representative George Cushingberry, Jr. Chair**

Darlene Moore, Committee Clerk, (517) 373-2994